

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18-46 are active. New Claims 41-46 track method and plant claims which were previously withdrawn. Claims 18-46 find support in the disclosure as follows:

Claim 18 (Claims 1-7, [0026], [0032]), Claims 19-20 [0021], Claim 21 [0022], Claims 22-24 ([0025]), Claims 25-28 [0026], Claims 29-32 [0028-0030], Claim 33 (Claim 6, [0032]), Claim 34 (Claim 11), Claim 35 [0032], Claims 36-39 (Claims 7-10), Claim 40 [0034-0035], Claims 41-44 (Claims 14-17), and Claims 45-46 (Claims 12-13). Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of this Amendment and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Restriction/Election

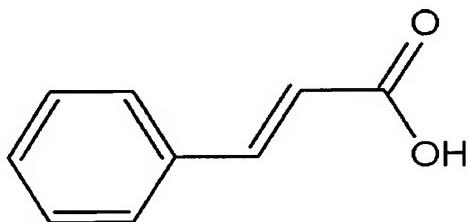
The Applicants previously elected with traverse Group I, Claims 1-13, directed to a plant growth regulator. The claims of Groups II-IV which are respectively directed to a method of making (II) and method of use (III) for the plant growth regulator, as well as dwarfing plant (IV) have been withdrawn from consideration. Upon an indication of allowability for a claim in the elected Group I, the Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and allowance of non-elected claims which depend from, or otherwise incorporate the limitations of, said allowed claim.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of Claim 9.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferguson et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,157,964. Ferguson does not anticipate the present claims, because it is directed to compositions for supplying moisture to plants which may optionally contain an addition polymer containing cinnamic acid (in copolymerized form). On the other hand, the cinnamic acid of the present claims is not in copolymerized form and has the following formula:



The copolymerized cinnamic acid of the prior art has lost its identity in the copolymer and is quite distinct from the non-polymerized cinnamic acid of the present claims. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-8 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferguson et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,157,964. Ferguson has been addressed above and does not disclose free cinnamic acid, but only cinnamic acid which has been incorporated into an addition copolymer. Since the cited prior art does not disclose, suggest or provide a reasonable expectation of success for the present invention, this rejection may now be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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